

REMARKS

Applicants first address the content of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment and subsequently the response to the election requirement in the Office Action of April 6, 2004.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification, claims and drawings have been amended to improve form and without change of substance or introduction of new matter. Accordingly, approval and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Response to Restriction Requirement of Items 1-5

Applicants hereby elect invention I of claims 1-16, without traverse.

Response to Election of Species Requirement of Items 6-10

Applicants initially acknowledge item 7 of the Action, which specifies that claims 1-2 and 13-16 are generic and, accordingly, the same are elected herewith.

Further, in response to item 6, the specie of claims 3-7 is elected, with traverse.

The traverse is based on the circumstance that claim 8/3 depends from claim 3 and, accordingly, if non-generic claim 3/1 is allowable, claim 8/3 should likewise be allowable, and no further searching or independent prosecution of claim 8/3 would be necessary or appropriate.

Accordingly, the election of species should be corrected to include only a first specie of claims 3-8 and a second specie of claims 9-12. Such action is earnestly solicited.

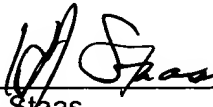
Serial No. 09/805,046

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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